of females than other divisions, but the existence of only 842 females per 1,000 males shows that the severity of climate is a strong factor acting adversely on the growth of the female content of the population. In the first place there is large number of male births than females and the climate being cold there are greater dangers from chills and exposures to young children and old persons of delicate constitutions. Since greater regard and preferential care of the male children secures immediate medical relief from them, the absence of such regard in the case of females exposes them to greater risks.

127. **Causes of Deficiency of Sex-ratio.**—(*1*) *Female Infanticide.*—The custom of female infanticide which has its origin in the prohibitive expense of marrying daughters in high caste Hindus used to be common in the Duggar country especially among the Rajputs which accounts for the great dearth of females in that community, there being 754 females to 1,000 males. It cannot be said with certainty that the practice has altogether vanished although there can be no denial of its being considerably on the wane. The measures taken during this decade under the inspiration of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur who has created a special trust (Dhandevi Memorial Fund) for the marriage of Rajput girls and also announced that for each female child born to a Rajput the father will get an acre of land, the custom may be said to be fast vanishing. The happy results of these measures have already begun to show themselves as at the current Census the female proportion of Rajputs has risen from 729 to 754.

(*2*) *Neglect of Female Children.*—The neglect of female children exhibits itself in two different shapes—deliberate and unconscious. If the neglect of parents is intended to bring about the death of the female infant it amounts to infanticide but if on the other hand the neglect is not deliberate but due partly to habit and partly to greater regard for the sons who are better looked after than the daughters it is unconscious neglect. The cases of deliberate neglect are getting fewer and fewer with the advancement of civilization while unconscious neglect is still in vogue. This naturally takes place more among the poor whose slender means and little education do not allow them to maintain equality between children of both sexes. As already shown above this kind of neglect will be found more in Kashmir where exposures and chills to infant daughters are not attended to so promptly as in the case of sons, slightest trouble to whom summons immediate medical assistance. In the Jammu Province also the unconscious neglect is common but the climate being milder the children can carry through the mild winter even with poor clothing and chances of exposure are not so great as in Kashmir.

(*3*) *Early Marriage.*—The practice of early marriage creating child wives and even mothers aged 11 or 12 years is responsible for greater mortality of females on account of too early conception. With the passing of the Regulation preventing marriage of girls under 14 and boys under 18 the practice may be said to have received its death blow and other conditions being favourable we should expect a better proportion of females at the next Census. The practice which was so common in the Duggar has given a serious set-back to the growth of Hindu population of the State which during the last forty years has shown a very unsatisfactory increase.

(*4*) *Deaths due to Child-births.*—It is a well-known fact that many deaths of females in India take place at the time of child-birth which is due to the unskilful midwifery and septicaemia.

(*5*) *Hard treatment to Women.*—The young wives are generally subjected to hard treatment at the hands of the mother-in-law while the young widows are regarded as a curse in Hindu families.

(*6*) *Hard Work.*—Over work or work under harder conditions coupled with the usual trouble of looking after the family, cooking the meals and doing several other things under unsanitary conditions within the four walls of the house also tells upon the health of women. The *Purdah* system further affects their health adversely.

[Errata: read "for"; cf. errata sheet, p. 329, category 116 -- Analyst]